

New Features in PowerTeacher 1.5

Power Teacher 1.5 introduces over 30 key features and usability enhancements suggested by teachers and administrators. It includes critical items needed for schools to use PowerTeacher district-wide, along with a new easy-access final grade entry area. PowerTeacher 1.5 also introduces a new application, PowerTeacher Administrator, which is the foundation for providing content and other items directly to gradebook users.

Pearson is dedicated to a process of continual improvement, to bring you the features you need to be successful in the classroom today and in the future. Thanks to the feedback of our customers, this release incorporates the most commonly requested items. Your feedback is important to us, and helps each new release meet and exceed the expectations of our teachers across the nation.

The following tables display a complete list of enhancements in PowerTeacher 1.5.

PowerTeacher Gradebook

Final Grades, Category Totals, Grade Scales

Feature	Description
Ability to edit the section grade scale	Teachers can customize the grade scale for special needs and other students.
Create multiple scales from one section grade scale	A section grade scale can be divided into different components for different students. For example, some students can be on an ABCDF scale, and others on a Pass / Fail or other grade scale.
Assign specific grade scales to individual students	Grade scales can be assigned at the student level. Using the section grade scale, or a teacher's edited versions, each student can receive their own specific grade scale.
New Final Grade mode	New mode for quick final grade entry. This mode includes all final grades from the Student Information System (SIS), and displays the category totals.
Citizenship in PowerTeacher Gradebook	Citizenship grades are now available in the Final Grade mode in PowerTeacher Gradebook for PowerSchool customers.
Real-time final grade calculation, and "what-if" final grade preview ability.	Final grades update immediately as new scores are entered. Teachers can enter scores to perform "what-if" analysis and get a preview of the final grade impact. Scores can be saved or discarded as needed by the teacher.
Category Totals	In Final Grade mode, teachers can view the category totals for each student, along with class averages. Category totals can be viewed for any selection of categories. Teachers can choose to view totals as letter grades, percents or points earned.
Section Completion Indicator and Comment.	Teachers can mark each section as complete and ready for report cards. Teachers can add comments about their section's status. Administrators can run a report in PowerTeacher Administrator to view completion status.
Final Grade and Comment Report	Ability to see Citizenship and other final grades from Final Grade mode on the Final Grade and Comment Report.

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Spell Check, Manage Content, On-line Help

Feature	Description
Spell Check	Spell check is available in all name and description fields. Spelling is checked automatically as the user types, with misspellings underlined in red, and correction suggestions provided. Teachers can add words to a personal dictionary as needed.
Receipt of School Content and Materials	The gradebook can receive content (links to websites, applications, documents, etc.) from curriculum directors and other school staff. Links are created in PowerTeacher Administrator and distributed to teachers.
Creation of My Content	The gradebook now lets teachers create and store links to manage content (websites, applications, documents, etc.). All links are available for use in Comment and Description fields.
Add Web Links button updates	Web links and content links can be added quickly and easily on the Class Info window and on all assignment descriptions.
Copy Links for use in other applications	Links can be copied and pasted into student comments or other applications.

Scoresheet Filtering, Student Groups

Feature	Description
Student group filtering	Teacher can filter the score sheet to display just the students selected in the Student Groups pane.
Scoresheet - Parent / Teacher / Student conference view	Using student group filtering, the Scoresheet can quickly be filtered to a single student. Great for parent / teacher conferences, or one-on-one meetings with students.
Category filtering	Teachers can filter the Scoresheet by any number of selected categories. In Final Grade mode, teachers can also filter which category totals are displayed.
Assignments for Student Groups – Appearance in Parent Portal	Assignments created for one group of students and exempt for others no longer appear in the Parent Portal when a student is exempt and no score has been assigned.
Pre-defined student groups for all enrolled and dropped students	Student Groups pane displays enrolled and dropped students by default. Now teachers can quickly choose selections of students for use in reports and for filtering the Scoresheet.
Storing the classes filter between sessions	PowerTeacher now stores the classes filter between sessions, so teachers do not need to select it each time they log in.

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Fill Scores, Score Inspector, Comments

Feature	Description
Fill Scores – Assignment Enhancements	Ability for the teacher to choose which items to mass fill, leaving all other data untouched. The teacher can fill any score, score flag, or comment, without affecting other data. For example, a teacher can add a comment and a late flag to all students, while retaining whatever previous grade and other score flags the students received.
Fill Scores – Selected Student Groups	Assignment scores, comments, and flags can be mass filled for all students in a group by filtering the Scoresheet to that group, and using the Fill Scores function. This applies to the final grade and additional grades as well.
Fill Scores - Final Grade	Ability for the teacher to mass fill final grades and comments. Teachers can also clear grades, comments and manual overrides if needed.
Fill Scores – Citizenship and other grades	Ability for the teacher to mass fill any grades appearing in Final Grade mode. This includes Citizenship (from PowerSchool), and other final grades from the SIS.
Score Inspector – Comment enhancements	The Score Inspector now displays a new tab for entering comments. This area allows more space for entering comments and using the Comment Bank. It allows teachers to navigate between students while entering comments, without needing to launch a separate pop-up menu for the Comment Bank.
Score Inspector – Now resizable	The Score Inspector is now completely resizable. Teachers can make it larger or smaller as desired. In addition, the Comment Bank can be opened, closed, and resized.
Mouse-over comments	Teachers can view detailed student comments by simply hovering the mouse over the blue comment icon in any assignment score field.

Import Scores, Export Scores, SIS Integration

Feature	Description
Quick Export of scores, or a Score Template	PowerTeacher users can now export an assignment score template with or without scores. Export is a CSV file, which can be opened in Excel or other spreadsheet program. This template is a great benefit while working off-line. After score entry in a spreadsheet, one-click allows teachers to import the scores into the gradebook.
Quick import of scores for an assignment from excel, text file, or score template	PowerTeacher users can now import scores for an assignment from a CSV, Excel, text, or PowerTeacher score template file.
Import scores for an assignment from other applications	PowerTeacher users can now import assignment scores from any other application. Designed as a simple tool right in the gradebook, all common files types are accepted, allowing PowerTeacher users to get an assignment's data in from any other application.

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Feature	Description
Integration with other Pearson SIS products	PowerTeacher is now fully integrated with all Pearson SIS products: PowerSchool, Chancery SMS, and SASI

Using the Gradebook, Performance

Feature	Description
Performance improvements	Many performance improvements are now available, including caching, final grade calculation, and more.
Refresh Class Information	Allows the gradebook to retrieve the latest information from the server. Especially handy for teachers who work from multiple computers and keep their gradebook running on each. For example, for teachers who keep their gradebooks open at home and at school, this feature allows quick updating of the latest changes, without needing to quit and re-launch the gradebook.
Context sensitive online help	Context sensitive online help is now available throughout the application, in addition to the full online help available from the main menu.
Copy Assignment window uses section preferences for display	The Copy Assignment window now uses the same section preferences used in the class lists display. Teachers can select section number vs. section meeting period and days, and course name vs. their own custom display name for the section. This Copy Assignment window will now match the class list in all cases.

General Fixes

Feature	Description
Missing Assignment Report – Using Unrecorded Scores	Running the report for a selection of students now evaluates the entire class to see if scores are recorded for all students, not just the selected set of students. When any student has a score, the assignment is evaluated for missing scores. When no student has a score, then the assignment is considered un-scored rather than missing. This fix applies when the Unrecorded Scores option is selected when generating the report.
Median calculation update	The median calculation now takes the average of the middle scores when an even number of scores are present. For example, with scores of 7,8,9,10, the median correctly displays 8.5.
Mean, Median, Mode display on percent assignments	When entering percentage scores for all students at once, the summary metrics will no longer initially display 100%.

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Feature	Description
PowerTeacher Individual Student Report fixed for students who drop, then later re-enroll in the same section	The Individual Student Report now shows all assignments for students who drop and then later re-enroll.
Scoresheet Report with more than 15 reporting terms	The Scoresheet Report will now render in PDF format when users have more than 15 reporting terms.
Attendance Grid report: standardization of font size	Running the attendance grid report for only a few days no longer uses a larger font size.
Ability to use grade scales with decimal values	Assignments now use the full decimal value (if it exists) for a grade scale, rather than a rounded value. An assignment scored as an "A", where the grade scale value for A= 98.8% (for example) would receive 98.8% on the assignment, not 99%.

PowerTeacher Administrator – New!!

PowerTeacher Administrator is a new application for distributing content to teachers, and managing other gradebook features. This version provides some core features, and is a foundation for future functionality.

Feature	Description
Creation of My Content	Area in PowerTeacher Administrator to create links to manage content (websites, applications, documents, etc.).
Distributing content to teachers	Ability to distribute content links (web applications, web sites, documents, etc.) to those teachers using PowerTeacher Gradebook.
Robust account management and security groups	Ability to create security groups with specific permissions, and edit permissions at the user level.
Default security group for accounts coming from the SIS	Administrators can define default permission settings for all user accounts coming from PowerSchool. This way, no extra account management is needed.
Single sign-on from PowerSchool	PowerSchool administrators and teachers who are given permission in PowerSchool can launch PowerTeacher administrator right from Premier. These users enjoy single sign-on and a direct link from the SIS to PowerTeacher Administrator
Account synchronization with PowerSchool	In PowerSchool, administrators can specify which users have access to PowerTeacher administrator. Updates to usernames and passwords carry over to PowerTeacher Administrator.



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Robust search and group functionality	Ability to search and group schools, teachers, courses, sections, and more! Groups are available for quick use in other areas of PowerTeacher Administrator.
Section Readiness report	Report on a teacher's section status for final grades, and view teacher entered comments about their readiness for report cards. Inspect final grades and comments for a section as needed.
Allow / disallow editing of specific grade scales by teachers.	Allow/disallow the ability for teachers to edit and customize their sections' grade scales.
Trigger and schedule data exchange for selected SIS products	Ability to trigger and schedule data exchange between PowerTeacher and Chancery SMS or SASI.
Manage the PowerTeacher Time-out setting	Ability to set a PowerTeacher gradebook specific time-out setting.